

# Text Structure

## Question 1 .



### Childhood Obesity

- 1 How does someone become obese? One simple explanation is that a person consuming more energy than he or she uses gains weight. Can a person completely avoid obesity? Well, it depends on a number of factors.
- 2 Genetics: Genes can affect a person's metabolic rate, fat-storage hormones, and blood-glucose metabolism. Genetic factors also control how a person's body stores and burns energy from food. Obesity might run in the family. Thus, overweight parents tend to have overweight children. Adopted kids often reflect the size of their biological parents.
- 3 Lack of physical activity: The average kid today is less engaged in physical activity compared to children a few decades ago. What has contributed to this extra amount of pounds on the kids' bodies? The main culprits are electronic discoveries like television, computer, and video games. Kids today sit still for hours and, in turn, add extra weight.
- 4 Unhealthy snacks: An average American eats four meals a day because of all the snacks he or she consumes. These snacks do not normally consist of fruits and vegetables either. Because schools are loaded with vending machines that dispense high calorie sweets and drinks, kids are more inclined to snack on unhealthy food items. Thanks to the media, kids are always drawn to snack on one unhealthy food product after another.
- 5 Fast-food: Do you want an easy way to lose weight? Eat more regularly at home. Do you want an inexpensive way to eat healthy? Stop eating fast food. People are more drawn to the greasy, salty, and sugary substitutes for healthy food while eating out. More kids are packing extra calories by dining at fast food restaurants.

What type of organizational structure is used in paragraph 1?

- ☐ A. problem and solution
- ☐ B. compare and contrast
- ☐ C. question and answer
- ☐ D. chronological order

**Question 2 .**

In 1917, Katharine Cook Briggs met her future son-in-law and noticed that his personality was very different from her other family members' personalities. Consequently, she began to research personality types. Briggs developed a theory that there are four main personality types—meditative (or thoughtful), spontaneous, executive, and social. There was a great deal of interest in Briggs' work, and this allowed her to publish her book *Psychological Types* in 1923. Her daughter, Isabel Briggs Myers, discovered new information about personality types and joined her mother's work. Myers learned test construction, scoring, and statistics, and this led to the creation of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator in 1956. This test, with some updates and revisions, is still in use today. Many career counselors, teachers, life coaches, and marriage counselors use the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator to help clients learn more about their own unique personalities.

Based on this passage, which of the following caused Katharine Cook Briggs to begin researching personality types?

- ☐ A. the request of her future son-in-law
- ☐ B. her observation of personality differences
- ☐ C. her interest in research conducted by her daughter
- ☐ D. the publication of *Psychological Types* in 1923

**Question 3 .**

What type of organizational structure should be used for a persuasive essay based on the following topic?

Why do we need to recycle?

- Saves Natural Resources
  - Saves Energy
  - Saves Clean Air and Water
  - Saves Landfill Space
  - Saves Money and Creates Jobs
  - Reduces pollution
- 
- ☐ A. cause and effect
  - ☐ B. chronological order
  - ☐ C. question/answer
  - ☐ D. similarities/differences

**Question 4 .**

Thomas Edison was one of America's greatest inventors. He was born in Ohio in 1847. He had very little schooling, but loved to read and invent things. As he was growing up, he sold magazines and candy on trains. Later, he worked in a telegraph office. During that time he began to develop and sell a number of inventions. He used the money he made to open up a manufacturing shop and laboratory. Later he opened just a laboratory in Menlo Park, New Jersey. He and his laboratory invented many devices including the phonograph, movie film, and the alkaline battery. By the time he died in 1931, he had created over 1,000 inventions.

Chronological order is a useful way to organize a biography like this one because

- ☐ A. the events in a biography can be told in any order, as long as they make sense.
- ☐ B. that way the story builds suspense, which is very important in a biography.
- ☐ C. it makes sense to tell the events of a person's life in the order in which they happened.
- ☐ D. biography is non-fiction, and non-fiction works best if the events are told chronologically.

## Question 5 .

**TO:** Rebecca Randall

**FROM:** Penny Randall

**DATE/TIME RECEIVED:** May 15, 2008, 3:45 p.m.

**SUBJECT:** How have you been?

Hi, Becca! I haven't seen you in a long time. I know you have been really busy. I hope you can come to the summer family reunion at the lake. I would like to talk to you.

Have you started thinking about college, yet? I've starting doing some research into different schools. It's a big decision, and we have to start filling out applications soon. My first choice is Columbia University. It's an Ivy League school in New York City. I've wanted to live in New York since my family went there for a vacation. Columbia costs about \$46,000 per year, but it is a great school to study chemistry and physics. There are more than 23,000 students at Columbia, but the school only accepts about 9 percent of the people who apply. That's why I have another school at the top of my list.

I'm also planning to apply to Harvard. Harvard is an Ivy League school located in Massachusetts, in the Boston area. It's the oldest university in the country and well known for its strong academics. It also will be a good place for me to get a degree in the sciences because it receives millions of dollars each year for research. There are less than 20,000 people at Harvard University, and they only accept about 7 percent of applicants. It's a very selective school, and the tuition will cost about \$50,000 per year. I know that I'll have to get financial aid wherever I go, but I think it would be worth it.

Those are my top two choices. Email me your top choices if you have time. Wouldn't it be nice if we both went to the same school?

Both of Penny's top-choice universities

- ☐ A. are located in Boston, Massachusetts.
- ☐ B. cost more than \$50,000 per year.
- ☐ C. are classified as Ivy League schools.
- ☐ D. accept more than 9 percent of applicants.

## Question 6 .

The second Aswan Dam, which was completed in 1970, was built to prevent the Nile River from flooding, generate electricity, and store water for agricultural uses. While the damming of the Nile has generated electricity and stored water as originally intended, the project has also created new cultural and environmental problems.

Erosion of the coastline, pollution in the Nile from the use of chemical fertilizers, and an increase in the salt present in the Mediterranean are a few of the environmental problems caused by the dam. In addition, 60,000 people were displaced from their homes when Nubia, located in southern Egypt, was flooded, and important cultural sites have been destroyed by the dam's presence. Therefore, it remains to be seen whether the Aswan Dam has solved as many problems as it has caused.

Which of the following does the author state as the cause of the flooding in Nubia?

- ☐ A. the destruction of cultural sites
- ☐ B. increased salt in the Mediterranean
- ☐ C. the erosion of the coastline
- ☐ D. the building of the second Aswan Dam

**Question 7 .****Erosion**

The term erosion refers to the removal of solids in the natural environment. Usually "erosion" is used to mean the removal of sediment, soil, and rock. The removed particles are transported from one natural site to another by wind, water, ice, down-slope creep of soil, matter under the force of gravity, or by living organisms. The erosion by burrowing animals is not as threatening to nature as erosion caused by humans. Although erosion is a natural process, humans have accelerated it because of land use, deforestation, overgrazing, unmanaged construction, and road-building.

The passage above uses its text structure

- ☐ A. to instruct how to reduce soil erosion.
- ☐ B. to compare different natural phenomena.
- ☐ C. to explain the phenomenon of erosion.
- ☐ D. to narrate the history of natural disasters.

**Question 8 .**

Oklahoma's Langston University was founded in 1897 as a result of the passage of the second Morrill Act. This act required all states that received federal funding to either admit African Americans to existing state colleges or create new colleges for African Americans. The Morrill Act forced the state government to allow a new university to be built, but state leaders left it up to African American settlers to purchase land. The settlers raised money through bake sales, auctions, and donations, and they were able to buy 40 acres of land in 1898. The school building was finished soon after, and Langston University awarded its first bachelor's degree three years later.

In 1941, the university was renamed in honor of abolitionist, attorney, and political activist John Mercer Langston. Langston is Oklahoma's only historically African American university, and its campus is considered by many as one of the most beautiful in the country. Today, the university offers many undergraduate and graduate programs, and Langston's agricultural programs are internationally recognized.

According to the passage, which event occurred after the settlers purchased 40 acres of land?

- ☐ A. the state of Oklahoma passed a law called the second Morrill Act
- ☐ B. the Morrill Act forced the state to allow a new university to be built
- ☐ C. the settlers raised money with bake sales, auctions, and donations
- ☐ D. the first bachelor's degree was awarded at Langston University

## Question 9 .

**Field and Street Klootschieten**

by J. Robbins

Klootschieten is a popular sport in the Netherlands that involves throwing a ball, or *kloot*, as far as possible across varying terrain. This sport can be played in the field or street style. Many Klootschieten players are proficient in both styles.

Field Klootschieten can be played either by an individual or a team, and players attempt to reach a particular goal—usually a patch of grass or sand—in as few throws as possible. The Klootschieten course is composed of curves, hills, and valleys that make it difficult for players to quickly reach the goal.

Street Klootschieten is similar to the field style, but the course is mapped out in an urban, rather than a rural location. Additionally, the street *kloot* is heavier than the one used for field games. Players in street Klootschieten face the extra challenge of keeping their *kloot* from running into ditches, gutters, or traffic. Both the field and street styles of this game require players to rely on strategy rather than physical strength.

Why does the author use this organizational pattern?

- ☐ A. to show that street Klootschieten is easier than the field style
- ☐ B. to provide details about the history of Klootschieten
- ☐ C. to describe two different styles of the sport Klootschieten
- ☐ D. to suggest that Klootschieten should be banned from city streets

## Question 10 .

**Appearances**

Herec and Sher were destined to be friends. Although Herec came from a family with means to spare, he never let it show in front of his friend Sher. The boys always learned from each other and grew up content. Sher never felt conscious about being raised by parents who had two full-time jobs. He had learned early in his life to understand the value of things. Friendship with Herec was one of them.

One fine Tuesday afternoon, Sher was coming out of the locker room when a group of boys surrounded him. Sher knew these types of guys—they had no power except for empty words, and all they wanted was to see a boy get scared. Sher greeted the boys and walked toward the door. He ignored the taunts and the insults about his humble appearance and modest clothes. Just as he reached the door, Herec walked in to the locker room. It was understood from Herec's red ears and cheeks that he had heard the caustic words thrown at his friend.

"Don't you ever insult my friend again," Herec slowly released these words from his shaking mouth. "Just because he ignores these words does not mean they don't hurt." He was pointing his finger toward the tallest guy in the room.

The leader of the bullying boys looked at Sher in disbelief. The guy could not comprehend how a tall and intimidating person like Sher was friends with a puny-looking boy like Herec.

*Well, whoever has the most influential father, I guess,* the bully thought to himself.

The passage uses its text structure to

- ☐ A. persuade kids to avoid violence.
- ☐ B. instruct how to deal with bullies.
- ☐ C. describe an unlikely friendship.
- ☐ D. portray healthy school behavior.

# Answers

1. C
2. B
3. C
4. C
5. C
6. D
7. C
8. D
9. C
10. C

# Explanations

1. It is important to make readers think about topics that they might find significant/useful. One way of engaging readers, as in paragraph 1, is through posing and answering questions.
2. This passage provides information about Katharine Cook Briggs and her research into personality types. In the first two sentences, the reader learns that Katharine Cook Briggs began her research into personality types after observing that her future son-in-law's personality differed from the personalities of her other relatives. When looking for cause and effect in a passage, find keywords and phrases such as "as a result," "because," and "due to."
3. A writer's choice of structure depends on the point he or she wants to make. A persuasive essay, for example, may start with "Why should you recycle?" and then be followed by the answer in a series of well-supported paragraphs.
4. A biography is a work of non-fiction that tells the story of someone's life, in third person. Chronological order lends itself to biography, because it often makes the most sense to tell the events of a person's life in the order in which they happened. Otherwise, the biography might be hard for the reader to follow.
5. Penny is comparing and contrasting her two top college choices. In her descriptions, she mentions that both schools are Ivy League schools.
6. The second paragraph of this passage describes several effects of the construction of the second Aswan Dam in Egypt. The author states that "60,000 people were displaced from their homes when Nubia, located in southern Egypt, was flooded." The passage attributes this flooding to the second Aswan Dam.
7. This passage explains how erosion occurs. It lists various causes for this phenomenon and cites the effects of erosion.
8. The first paragraph of this passage describes the early history of Langston University. The author states that after local settlers raised enough money to purchase 40 acres of land, "Langston University awarded its first bachelor's degree three years later."
9. This passage uses compare and contrast organization. Authors often use compare and contrast organizational patterns to show the similarities and differences of two or more things. In this passage, the author describes the similarities and differences between the field and street styles of Klootschieten.
10. The difference in the two characters' background and appearance makes their close friendship seem unlikely and special.